

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A folding table comprising:

a pair of table tops folding between a use position, ~~and~~ a storage position and an initial shipping position ;

a framework;

a folding linkage connecting the table tops to the framework and folding the table between the use position and the storage position;

a selectively releasable lock for the folding linkage automatically engaging at the storage position, including a handle and a latch, a pivot member having the handle mounted thereto, and a sleeve having the latch mounted thereto; wherein the latch is freely rotatable relative to the handle at the initial use position and wherein the pivot member and sleeve are concentric and released during shipping and connected for use.

2. (Original) A folding table according to claim 1, wherein the selectively releasable lock automatically positions the table at a preferred storage position.

3. (Currently Amended) A folding table according to claim 1, wherein the ~~lock comprises a handle and a latch rotatably mounted~~ the latch rotatably mount to a first one of the tabletops.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A folding table according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the lock comprises an engagement member mounted to a second one of the tabletops and engaging the latch at the storage position.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A folding table according to claim 7, wherein the lock comprises a spring loaded detent connecting the pivot member and the sleeve.

9. (Currently Amended) A linkage for a folding table having first and second tabletops and folding between a use position and a storage position, comprising:

a first linkage assembly adapted to mount to an underside of the first tabletop;

a second linkage assembly adapted to mount to an underside of the second tabletop, wherein the first and second linkage assemblies engage and foldably connect the first and second tabletops;

a lock assembly adapted to mount to an underside of the first tabletop including at least one handle connected to a latching member, and an engagement member mounted to the second linkage and adapted to engage the latching member; wherein the handle selectively moves the latching member between an engaged position and a disengaged position and is initially disconnected from the latching member for shipping, and wherein the latching member and handle cooperate to automatically position the lock assembly and limit motion of the linkage assemblies so that the latching member automatically engages the engagement member and locks the linkage upon folding the linkage to the storage position.

10. (Currently Amended) A linkage according to claim 7 9, wherein the handle and latching member are rotatably mounted.

11. (Currently Amended) A linkage according to claim 7 9, wherein the lock assembly comprises two handles.
12. (Currently Amended) A linkage according to claim 7 9, wherein linkage defines a folding axis and wherein the handles are mounted opposite one another axially outward from the linkage.
13. (Currently Amended) A linkage according to claim 7 9, wherein the latching member comprises a hook portion.
- 14-15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A lock for a folding table having folding tabletops and a folding linkage, comprising:
- a locking member mounted on a sleeve concentric with a pivot on a first portion of the folding linkage;
- a complementary member mounted on a second portion of the folding linkage;
- a handle mounted to the pivot, wherein the handle and the locking member engage one of the tabletops and limit the pivoting range of the lock;
- wherein the locking member is freely rotatable relative to the handle at the initial use position and wherein the pivot and sleeve are released during shipping and connected for use.
17. (Currently Amended) A method of locking and unlocking a folding table having a folding linkage with a first assembly and a second assembly, a first tabletop and a second tabletop folding between a storage position wherein the first tabletop and the second tabletop are substantially opposed and a use position, and a lock assembly having a locking member mounted to a pivot and a handle mounted to a sleeve rotating on the pivot, and a complementary engagement member, the method comprising:

rotating the handle;

folding the first and second tabletops to the ~~first-second~~ storage position such that the locking member automatically engages and retains the engagement member and positions the first and second tabletops for storage;

rotating the handle to disengage the locking member, moving the tabletops to the use position.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~ 17, further comprising folding the table to a shipping position prior to folding the table to a storage position, comprising disengaging the handle and locking member from one another, moving the locking member to a non-engaging position, and moving the tabletops to a shipping position.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~16~~ 18, further comprising engaging the handle and locking member, and moving the tabletops from the shipping position.

20. (Original) A folding table comprising:

first and second tabletops folding along a folding axis, wherein the tabletops define a generally oval table having a dimension transverse to the folding axis greater than a dimension along the folding axis;

a plurality of seating devices spaced evenly along a portion of the table periphery.

21. (Currently Amended) A folding table according to claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein the spacing accommodates a cafeteria tray for each seat.

22. (Currently Amended) A folding table according to claim ~~18~~ 20, wherein the seating devices define a space for accommodating a wheelchair.

23. (Original) A support structure for a folding table having tabletops folding between a use position and a storage position, comprising:

a plurality of mounting rails constructed for attachment to the tabletops;

a plurality of table legs pivotally attached to the mounting rails;

a storage lock assembly that automatically locks the table support structure in the storage position when the mounting rails are brought into the storage position, wherein the storage lock assembly is initially disconnected for shipping;

a use lock assembly that locks the support structure in the use position when the mounting rails are brought into the use position.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~24~~ 23, further comprising a plurality of support linkage members constructed to prevent the table legs from pivoting while the folding table support structure is in the use position, wherein a first support linkage member is attached to table legs of a first folding table assembly of a support structure and a second support linkage member is attached to table legs of a second folding table assembly of a support structure.

26. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~23~~ 25, wherein the storage lock assembly includes a lock catch that is attached to the first support linkage member and a locking member that is pivotally attached to second foldable table assembly of a support structure.

27. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein the tabletops comprising a generally oval table, wherein the first tabletop is attached to a first set of mounting rails and the second tabletop is attached to a second set of mounting rails.

28. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~21~~ 23, wherein at least one table leg is constructed to support a least one seat.
29. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~25~~ 27, further comprising a plurality of seats evenly spaced around the tabletop.
30. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~27~~ 29, wherein at least one of the seats is removable to accommodate a wheel chair.
31. (Currently Amended) A folding table support structure according to claim ~~21~~ 23, further comprising a torsion spring that applies torque between a mounting rail and a table leg in a direction that facilitates the folding of the support structure.
- 32-38. (Cancelled)